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LETTER DATED 2 DECEMBER 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF KUWAIT TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I should like to place on record publicly our strong protest against the continued presence of five Iraqi police posts inside Kuwaiti territory. Kuwait has earlier communicated this protest to Major-General Gunther Greindl, Commander of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM). In this connection, I should like to state the following:

1. Iraq claims that the posts had been in place before 2 August 1990. In fact, these five posts were established just before the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, ostensibly to monitor the Kuwaiti side in preparation for Iraq's aggression on 2 August 1990.

2. In spite of Kuwait's protestations through UNIKOM, Iraq refuses to pull back these posts, allegedly "because of the political implications". This stance clearly places Iraq in violation of the territorial sovereignty of Kuwait.

3. The rationale behind Iraq's intransigence is that the location of these police posts would be settled by the Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission. Without prejudice to the outcome of the Demarcation Commission's work, it is an established fact that the Iraqi posts are within Kuwaiti territory. The continued presence of these posts is an attempt by the Iraqi regime to present the Demarcation Commission with a fait accompli.

4. The continued presence of the Iraqi posts runs counter to the reasonable-distance principle of 1,000 metres from the boundary line shown on UNIKOM maps. This principle was set by UNIKOM to avoid frictions and incidents in the demilitarized zone (DMZ). Iraq's refusal to abide by this principle is a clear violation of its commitment to facilitate the work of UNIKOM.

5. To claim that Iraqi police are under orders to avoid any clashes is but an attempt by the Iraqi regime to convey a position of cooperation and flexibility while it maintains its presence on Kuwaiti territory.

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While lodging this protest, I am also instructed by my Government to demand the immediate dismantling of the five Iraqi police posts.

I should appreciate it if you would bring this letter to the immediate attention of the members of the Security Council and to arrange for its circulation as an official document of the Council.

(Signed) Mohammad A. ABULHASAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
